IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

MURAKAMI, Akira — Atty. Ref.: 330-243

Serial No. unknown — Group:

Filed: January 29, 2002 — Examiner:

For: METHOD FOR PRODUCING SUBSTRATE BLANK, SUBSTRATE AND INFORMATION RECORDING MEDIUM

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January 29, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In order to place the above-identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following amended claims for corresponding claims previously presented. A copy of the amended claims showing current revisions is attached.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein the substrate blank is formed to have one of a structure in which the substrate blank has a small-thickness portion in a central portion and a large-thickness portion in a circumferential portion, a structure in which the substrate has a large-thickness portion in a central portion and a small-thickness portion in a circumferential portion, and a structure in which the blank has a large-thickness portion in each of a central portion and a circumferential portion and a small-thickness portion between the circumferential portion and the central portion.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein a molten glass as the glass in a softened state is supplied onto the lower mold member and press-molded.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the mold having upper and lower mold members is adjusted to have a lower temperature than the glass in a softened state to press-mold the glass.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the substrate blank has the form of a disk.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the substrate blank has a thickness whose minimum value and maximum value are both in the range of from 0.8mm to 2.2mm.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the substrate blank is for use as an intermediate for a substrate for an information recording medium.

11. A method for producing a substrate, which comprises cutting and polishing the substrate blank produced by the method recited in claim 1.

REMARKS

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page(s) is captioned "**Version With Markings To Show Changes Made**."

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

5. The method of claim 3 ~~or 4~~, wherein the substrate blank is formed to have one of a structure in which the substrate blank has a small-thickness portion in a central portion and a large-thickness portion in a circumferential portion, a structure in which the substrate has a large-thickness portion in a central portion and a small-thickness portion in a circumferential portion, and a structure in which the blank has a large-thickness portion in each of a central portion and a circumferential portion and a small-thickness portion between the circumferential portion and the central portion.

6. The method of ~~any one of~~ claims 1 ~~to 4~~, wherein a molten glass as the glass in a softened state is supplied onto the lower mold member and press-molded.

7. The method of ~~any one of~~ claims 1 ~~to 4~~, wherein the mold having upper and lower mold members is adjusted to have a lower temperature than the glass in a softened state to press-mold the glass.

8. The method of ~~any one of~~ claims 1 ~~to 4~~, wherein the substrate blank has the form of a disk.

9. The method of ~~any one of~~ claims ~~1 to 4~~, wherein the substrate blank has a thickness whose minimum value and maximum value are both in the range of from 0.8mm to 2.2mm.

10. The method of ~~any one of~~ claims ~~1 to 4~~, wherein the substrate blank is for use as an intermediate for a substrate for an information recording medium.

11. A method for producing a substrate, which comprises cutting and polishing the substrate blank produced by the method recited in ~~any one of~~ claims ~~1 to 4~~.